

2 June 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Nicosia Bureau--May 1981

I. GENERAL

Nicosia joined the other bureaus in the region in extending coverage and hours of operations when the Israeli-Lebanese-Syrian crisis reached a new plateau during the month with the installation of Syrian surface-air missile batteries in Lebanon. Possibilities for new realignments in the Arab world also moved ahead in May when Egyptian President as-Sadat visited the Sudan on the 25th and signs of closer Egyptian-Sudanese-Ethiopian cooperation began to crystalize. Cyprus experienced a parliamentary election on 24 May in which the ruling Democratic Party gathered only 20 percent of the vote and the majority of seats were equally divided between the AKEL (Communist) Party and the conservative Democratic Rally Party.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. At Headquarters' request the bureau remained open around the clock on 16 and 17 May and, on its own initiative, instituted longer hours 28 - 30 May to provide full coverage of the Lebanese situation. London Bureau provided valuable assistance on the 16th and 17th by assuming coverage of Cairo Domestic Service and MENA.

2. Coverage of the Arabic-language papers AS-SAFIR, AL-BAYRAQ and AN-NAHAR was transferred to PMU as of 1 June, after prolonged attempts to improve delivery at Nicosia were abandoned. The bureau will continue to monitor the English-language MONDAY MORNING weekly magazine.

3. A 2-week survey of the new clandestine Voice of Palestine Radio Hebrew to Israel program proved to be unproductive. Coverage of the cast was deferred to Tel Aviv Bureau.

4. The bureau's Persian monitor obtained copies of eight Persian-language dissident Iranian publications published in Europe and will pouch these to Headquarters for determination whether further coverage would be beneficial.

5. At AG's request, the bureau is filing an 8-week sample of FYI's on the Friday prayers broadcast by Cairo Domestic Service and other Cairo transmitters.

6. The bureau's program summary coverage of the Tehran International Service Russian 1515 GMT cast has been cut to two summaries weekly. AG remains the major consumer, and the bureau has promised to concentrate coverage on significant occasions and anniversaries and to provide expanded coverage upon AG request.

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B. Lateral/Special Services

1. The bureau filed FYI's and reports on the 24 May Cyprus parliamentary elections to the U.S. Embassy in Vienna for the attention of outgoing U.S. Ambassador Stone at his request.

2. By request, the bureau is now providing the Embassy's Greek political officer with copies of all Cyprus newspaper and radio program summaries daily. This service was initiated during the recent parliamentary election, and the political officer expressed appreciation for the bureau's running summaries of radio and television interviews with the six principal party leaders, saying that it permitted better coverage of their remarks and the election than otherwise would have been possible.

3. The bureau phonepatched a total of nearly 80 minutes of Tehran Domestic Service coverage to BBC on three occasions during the month.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Embassy Administrative Officer [] toured the bureau on 27 May. STAT

B. FBIS Deputy Director [] visited the bureau 29 May - 1 June. STAT

C. Bureau Chief [] was away from the bureau on Bureau Chief Conference TDY and private travel 23 April - 16 May. STAT

D. Regional Engineer [] departed for TDY in Islamabad on 31 May. STAT



Nicosia Bureau Chief

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Attachments:

- A. Operations Report (including production and traffic reports)
- B. Engineering Report